



Glamorgan West Area Scout Council

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 4th September 2013

Annual Report 2012 – 2013



Promoting and Supporting Scouting in the City and County of
Swansea and the County Borough of Neath & Port Talbot

Glamorgan West Area Scout Council

Annual General Meeting 2013

President HM Lord Lieutenant of West Glamorgan, D Byron Lewis,
Esq. CStJ FCA

Life Vice Presidents Mr Alan Clewett

Dr Brian Davison OBE

Mrs Ann Harries MBE JP DL

Commodore Sir Robert Hastie KCVO CBE KStJ RD* JP
RNR

Annual Report Contents

Members of the Glamorgan West Area Executive 2012-13	page 3
Area Chairman's Report	page 4
Area Commissioner's Report	page 4
District Commissioner Reports:	
Afan Nedd	page 5
Cwm Newydd	page 7
Swansea and Gower	page 8
AAC Programme Report	page 9
Activity & Training Centre Reports:	
Moorlakes Wood	page 10
Neath Scout Campsite	page 11
Parc le Breos	page 12
Silver Cross	page 13
Area Census Figures: 2013 and 2012 Comparisons	page 15/16

Glamorgan West Area Scout Council

2012 - 13 Area Executive Committee Members

Ex officio members:

Area Chairman
Area Secretary
Area Treasurer

Mr Robert G Evans
Mr Allen Aldred JP
Mr Peter Muxworthy MBE JP
FCA
Mr Gareth Watson
Mrs Pat Thomas
Mrs Sue Evans
Mrs Ann Gratrix

Area Commissioner
District Commissioner Afan Nedd
District Commissioner Cwm Newydd
District Commissioner Swansea and Gower

Elected members:

Mr Jonathan Gratrix
Mrs Ann Harries MBE JP DL
Mr Tony Morgan
Mr Graham Rees-Evans

Area Commissioner's Nominated members:

Mr Stephen Champion (also 18 – 25y member on Area Executive)
Mr Steven Jones
Mr Jon Rees
Mr Craig Seaman (also 18 – 25y member on Area Executive)

Co-opted members:

Mr Hywel Weaver

Invited members:

Area President
Field Commissioner
Local Development Officer
Nominated member on Council
of The Scout Association

D Byron Lewis Esq. CStJ FCA
Mr Simon Brownsill
Mr Richard Flowerdew
Dr Michael Isaac

AREA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It's hard to believe that a year has passed and I am writing another end of year report. It's been a successful year for both the Movement, locally as well as nationally and it is good to see that Scouting still highly appeals to the young people we serve and continues to grow.

Next year marks my fiftieth year in Scouting and as you can imagine I have seen many changes over these years. The Movement took a major step forward back in 1966 when the then Chief Scout, Sir Charles Maclean, produced his advance party report, which changed the uniform, introduced long trousers for Scouts and the newly formed Venture Scouts, as well as looking at the development of the Movement.

Some of the key points that came out of the report were:

- The word 'Boy' was removed and the Movement was renamed the Scout Association
- Wolf Cubs became Cub Scouts.
- The promises were combined with the removal of the phrases "On my honour" and "At all times"
- That there be three training sections in the movement
 - Cub Scouts (ages 8 to 11)
 - Scouts (ages 11 to 16)
 - Venture Scouts (ages 16 to 20)

Of these and all of the many other changes that have taken place over the years, Scouting still enables young people to enjoy the outdoors and develop lasting friendships.

Although programmes have changed to meet present day needs the core still remains the same, enjoyment, development and being members of an international organisation. I am happy to say that these fundamentals have not changed over those fifty years.

In concluding I give my thanks to all those of you that as adult leaders and committee members, have given so much of your time in helping the young people of our Area to develop, as well as making this last year another successful year for us in Glamorgan West.

Best regards,

Robert G Evans
Area Chairman

AREA COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

The year got off to a great start with a visit from the Queen for her Diamond Jubilee. Our recent Queen's Scouts met the Queen and Prince Phillip in the Orangery at Margam Park. Outside, we had three coach loads of young people from all sections to greet the Queen on her arrival. It was a wet but fantastic day.



The Area Commissioner and Queen's Scouts chat to Prince Philip in the Orangery

During the summer, a lot of hard work had been carried out at Moorlakes Wood in preparation for it to be used more regularly by Scouts. In October, Explorer Scouts from across the area were the first young people to camp at the site, and a visit by Bear Grylls to open the site was a great success.

Throughout the year I worked with Area management on planning changes to how various teams operate. In late December we began a search for more people to join the Area team. We had a great response and, during March and April, training for these people got underway. We were joined by new appointments committee advisors, trainers, training advisors and Steve Jones as District Commissioner for Swansea and Gower.

Finally, in March, I was lucky enough to help with BBC filming for Rhod Gilbert's Work Experience as a Scout Leader. Many thanks to 44TH Swansea (Sketty Church) Scout group for setting up a brilliant camp for the filming.

Gareth Watson
Area Commissioner

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Afan Nedd District

This has been another eventful and enjoyable year in Afan Nedd. We had a slight increase in numbers mainly due to the two new Beaver colonies in Baglan and Cwmavon.

There have been 7 leader investitures and 4 Wood Badges presented during the year. Leader training is beginning to progress well with several leaders nearing the completion of

their Wood Badges. I have attended many Group sections and presented Chief Scout Awards to Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

The most prestigious event however was held In March where we surprised William Baker the GSL at 11th Port Talbot with the Meritorious Conduct Award. The presentation was made in the Mayors Parlour in Port Talbot. It was a special evening where members of his troop, leadership team, committee, representatives from the Area and his family gathered to witness the presentation of this very well deserved award to an extraordinary leader.



Bill Baker receives the Meritorious Conduct award from Mrs Ann Harries MBE, JP, DL, Area Vice President and The Worshipful the Mayor of Neath Port Talbot County Borough, Cllr. Martyn Peters

The Sections have had several exciting and enjoyable events and competitions, the highlights being the District Beaver Olympic Sleepover and the Scouts All Wales Activity Weekend.

The Annual District Events were extremely well represented and successful, our thanks must go to The Reverend Lynda for again conducting our Christingle Service, the Funky Monkey ESU for orchestrating the St Georges Day Camp, and Graham and Ian for another exceptional Campfire.

The Group finances have again been boosted by the District Christmas Post which generated over £10,000; helped this year by having sponsorship from Braces Bread. Our thanks must again go to Tony Johnson for his orchestration and also to the many leaders, parents, helpers and Explorers who gave up their time to collect, sort and deliver the cards.

The two Explorer Units continue to thrive producing some excellent young people, several helping in groups within the District. Many of them are continuing to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh Awards and then hopefully onto becoming Queens Scouts. They are always willing to help at events and the District campsite, where they are learning new skills and leadership.

I would like to add my personal and the District's congratulations to Tony Johnson for his Silver Wolf award, Bill Baker for his Bar to the Silver Acorn and his Meritorious Conduct Award and to Richard Barratt for his Award of Merit.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Leaders, Sectional Assistants, Active Support, Network, Helpers, Parents, Young People and my two fellow DC's for their friendship and support during the past year.

Pat Thomas
District Commissioner

Cwm Newydd District

Again Cwm Newydd continues to grow in strength with our census figures up on last year and an increase in our Explorer Scouts.

Congratulations to all who have taken part in District and Area Events especially to those who came away winners. Further details of the competitions will be given in another report so I won't duplicate.

My thanks go to all leaders who attend District and Area events - without your support the 'scouts' would not be able to attend. My special thanks go to Lynda Jones (BSL Clydach), Mike Davis (CSL Clydach) and Bryan Jones (SL Clydach) who co-ordinate our District events and do a fantastic job - thank you very much.

I have had the pleasure of presenting quite a few Bronze, Silver and Gold Chief Scout Awards this year and look forward to this continuing. Well done to all who achieved awards this year you should be very proud of yourselves.

Many leaders have had training modules validated during the year with some very close to completing their Wood Badge - well done to them all and keep up the good work. I am glad to see that leaders continue to take training seriously and get their modules validated. I thank all experienced leaders who continue to support them.

Cwm Newydd had a good presence at the Area Camp - many thanks to the organisers - we all enjoyed the Camp and look forward to the next one !

Finally I thank all leaders, helpers and parents for making Scouting in Cwm Newydd what it is today and with continued support and commitment our District can only go on to better things

My thanks to you all for making Cwm Newydd a District that I'm very proud to be the District Commissioner of.

Sue Evans
District Commissioner

Swansea and Gower District

I am pleased to report that again this year the District has continued to grow. For the second year running we have increased our numbers mainly due to the Explorer Scout Section. Well done to everyone.

The sections continue to hold their annual activities and competitions they will be reported elsewhere in the annual report. The highlights for me were attending Margam Park for the visit by the Queen and Prince Phillip. It was a very wet day but the 9 Explorer Scouts from the District who were invited to have lunch with the Queen looked really smart. I was really proud of them. It was a long day for the Beavers Cubs and Scouts who stood all day to see the Royal Party especially for the Guard of Honour who had a very exposed position near to the Helicopter they were absolutely soaked through. A Mum of one of the Cub Scouts emailed that evening to thank me and said that her son had a brilliant day the best day of his life.

The second event was the Welsh Cultural Olympiad. Both the two younger sections took part and it was filmed for the Museum in Cardiff. The Scout Section continues with their new events all of which seem to have been a success. The Explorer Scouts continue with their activities and had a fantastic muddy camp at Moorlakes with a visit from the Chief Scout.

Most of the Groups are doing extremely well with many adventurous activities in their balanced programmes. This is due to the dedicated Volunteers who work in our groups and is reflected in the increase in their members.

We had 5 Wood Badges presented this year:

GSL	Hedley Jones and Carol Fowler
EXSL	Steven Jones and Rhys Owen
SL	Julian Morgans

2 leaders received the Merit Award - James Robinson of the 47th Swansea and Robert Pratt of the 22nd Swansea.
Congratulations to you all.

I give my Thanks to the section coordinators (Carol Fowler, Viv Lewis, Jonathan Gratrix and Steve Jones) and also to all the enthusiastic committed Volunteers Leaders and Helpers who give up so much of their valuable time every week planning and running such good enjoyable balanced programmes.

The year finished on a high with the 44th Swansea (Sketty Church) having the pleasure of being part of the Rhod Gilbert Work Experience production, which aired on BBC 1 a few months back. I know all those involved in the production very much enjoyed Rhod's enthusiasm and the programme was a great opportunity to promote the joys that volunteering as a leader can bring.

As this is my last report I would like to use this opportunity to thank everyone for their support, kindness and friendship over the last few years, especially for the cards, emails, flowers, presents and expressions of respect I received when it was announced I was finishing as acting DC. I really have appreciated them.

It is now welcome to Steve and you are in good hands. Keep up all your excellent work.
Thank You All

Ann Gratrix
District Commissioner

AAC PROGRAMME REPORT:

It has been another good year in most Districts but there are one or two are lagging behind with few to no activities in some of their Sections.

There has been a change to those who are co-ordinating the sections for me and the current list of them is:

Afan Nedd: Ann Waters (Beavers), Dirk Germon (Cubs), Paul Llewellyn (Scouts)

Cwm Newydd: Lynda Jones (Beavers), Michael Davis (Cubs), Bryan Jones (Scouts)

Swansea & Gower: Carol Fowler (Beavers), Viv Lewis (Cubs), Jonathan Gratrix (Scouts)

Some Sections do not get the support from the leaders that they should and I would urge the District Commissioners, when they meet their leaders, to encourage them to attend the relevant meetings, so that the young people are not missing out on events. There have been Area competitions held, a few in the Scout section, but the majority in the Cub Scout section. We really could do with more Area Beaver Scout events so Come on Beavers!

It has however been an eventful year and I have enjoyed everything that I have attended from Beaver Scout Sleepovers to Orienteering with the Scouts. A great day was had by all (I think) by all the Cub Scouts that attended the All Wales Cub Fun Day at Builth Wells - despite the weather (pity about the gazebo)!! I think even our Area Commissioner enjoyed himself.

There is now a new badge for Cub Scouts and Scouts called **Flood Awareness**. If you have not had the information, then please drop me an email.

Activities across the Area:

Beaver Scouts have enjoyed Walks, Sleepovers, Sandcastle Competitions, Treasure Hunt and Sports.

Cub Scouts have enjoyed Road Safety Competitions, Football Competitions, Sand Castle Competitions, Cross Country Run, Sports Day, and Swimming Competitions.

Scouts have had several Camps, Hikes, Activity Weekend, Cooking Competition, Shooting Competition, Chess & Draughts, Orienteering, and Fun Activity Day.

My thanks go to my team of nine for all their support along with their time in organising these events. Please continue your good work, as for those leaders who have not attended, you don't know what you've missed!

Please support your Section co-ordinators and reply to their emails - if only to say that you will not be there (but again think what the young people are missing).

If you are not in the Area Directory - Why Not?? If your details are incorrect or have been changed please let me know at email - anthony.morgan90@ntlworld.com

Tony Morgan
AAC (Programme)

AREA ACTIVITY & TRAINING CENTRES

MOORLAKES WOOD CENTRE:

It's been another year of hard work at the Centre, which is slowly turning into a campsite. We have been concentrating on the north side of the site, clearing fallen trees and those that look likely to come down in a strong wind! A spin-off from all this activity is that we have managed to raise funds to buy equipment and tools for the Centre. Advertising on Gumtree and in local stores etc, we have been selling off the logs and have so far raised around £10000. We deliver to most places in the Swansea and Gower area so if you have a log burner or open fire and want to buy a trailer load, then please get in touch with us.

So far we have managed to get a container on site, which houses our digger and small tools. We also have a quad bike and small trailer, which are invaluable in getting logs out of the woods. They are certainly an improvement on the wheelbarrow that we used to use!! We still use the old fashioned method of muscle power and axe to split them however – a great way to keep fit and build up our muscles!

Unfortunately we were unsuccessful with an initial application for a Big Lottery Fund grant but have been working with a few people to improve it so that it can be resubmitted. We were successful however with drilling a bore hole and will have a good supply of water for the site, once we have had a suitable filtration and storage system installed. We have also been successful in obtaining a grant to remove the rhododendron on the site, which will be worth around £12000 to us over the next 5 years. Its hard work removing them but the end result will be more funds for the Centre, as well as improving the woodland and providing more camping areas.



The Chief Scout with Gareth Watson, Area Commissioner, and Steve Jones (then) ESL Sketty ESU at Moorlakes

It's not been hard work all of the time however (although it often seems like it is!) – we were fortunate to host the Bear in the Air Explorer Camp in October, which culminated with a visit from the Chief Scout and our Chief Commissioner on the Sunday. We managed to keep them out of the worst of the mud, although that can't be said for the 150 Explorer Scouts and leaders who were there for the whole of the weekend. Comments in our Visitors Book range include 'muddy but brill!' 'wet, muddy, fun' 'lots of mud but lots of fun' 'enjoyed toasting marshmallows with Bear and his family'. We also hosted a visit from Rhod Gilbert during the filming of his Work Experience as a Scout Leader. The site may not have been seen much in the programme but Peter's chainsaw can definitely be heard during the opening sequence!

I made the offer in last year's Centre Report for anyone who wants a tour of the site to contact me – and that offer still stands. Moorlakes is an Area asset and everyone is encouraged to come and visit. Just give me a ring to arrange a suitable date and time. If you can also spare a few hours or days to join in one of the work parties, then again give me a ring.

Finally it would be very remiss of me if I did not pass my thanks again to Hedley (Jones), Lawrence (Sutton) and Terry (Avery) of the 32nd Swansea (Rhyddings) Group who turn up every month to lend us a hand. I hope they won't feel offended however if I reserve my special thanks to Craig (Seaman) and Peter (Muxworthy) for their constant attendance and hours/days of hard work. The Centre would still be very much overgrown but for their hard work.

Follow us on Facebook

Moorlakes Wood Activity Centre

Allen Aldred

NEATH SCOUT CAMPSITE:

www.neathscoutcampsite.org.uk



Neath Scout Campsite continues to thrive. Bookings are steady and the site is continually improving. There have been no large expenditures this year although there are plans in the pipeline!

The Scout Shop is overwhelmingly busy on Saturday mornings and the Scout Active Support Team has had to increase their knowledge of the ever increasing stock of 'i-scout' merchandise. Several leaders new to the site are impressed with the facilities and it has often resulted in guided tours and bookings.

We had another successful 'Dig and Eat' Day in September and the areas around the headquarters were thoroughly cleaned and tidied up. The Y Dragiau Dwr ESU has now based themselves at the site and meets fortnightly. They have also been busy servicing the site on a regular basis both indoors and outdoors, adding many new DIY skills to their CVs. We have managed to increase the numbers on the management committee which meets regularly to discuss the site, finances and the housekeeping.

Our thanks must go to this team, the majority who are ex leaders with many years experience, who give so much of their time so selflessly to enable the site to flourish.

Pat Thomas
Secretary

PARC LE BREOS CENTRE
www.gowerscoutcampsite.org.uk

Despite competition from HM The Queen's Jubilee celebrations and the London Olympics, 2012 was a good year for the site. We may have had fewer visitors but everyone coming seemed to have a good time. Bookings for the 2013 season are already strong and with the spell of very good weather we have been having, we fully expect a bumper year.

Fortunately maintenance on the site is lighter than most Centres, although extra hands are always welcome. The purchase of the tractor/mower truly was a blessing, making the task of keeping the grass down much easier. Strimming into the tree line is the hardest part and seems a never-ending task!

The trench dug (without warning) on behalf of Dwr Cymru up to the cottage – and then badly backfilled – has at last been tidied up, refilled correctly and is now nicely grassing over.

As you can see from the photograph below, Parc le Breos is an attractive site so why not bring your Group down to stay, or even for a day's activity so that you can see what is on offer. We look forward to seeing you.

Follow us on Facebook:

Parc le Breos Scout Campsite - Gower

Joan and Bruce Bowbanks
Secretary and Warden



SILVER CROSS CENTRE:

www.silvercross.org.uk

As I write this the summer season has already kicked in with the first two of our Irish visitors having already been and gone. The site camping area is looking very good, and the current crop of good weather is certainly helping. The last year has certainly been a busy one at Silver Cross with both the Area Camp in April and, of course, the Rhod Squad Camp in March. The broadcast of the Work Experience programme certainly increased the numbers of views on our website and Facebook and Twitter pages.

Since last year we have built five of the new style shelters which replace the old corrugated metal sheds of old. The new shelters have been warmly welcomed by campers, and all these were paid for by donations to the site specifically for them. We plan two more during the coming year (once some extra land drainage has been completed) and then each of the camping pitches will have its own shelter. We are extremely grateful to the companies and individuals who have donated money for these (they cost £500 each, so if anyone wants to help out ...), and I am personally very grateful to the Service Team for doing such a great job in building them

Also funded by donations, we are in the process of building a covered area at the Archery Range which will enable this activity to be done when the weather is inclement (which could be often in our climate!). The adventure course, Spiderland, has had some major maintenance and also new additions, the most popular of which is definitely the low-level zip wire.

While we are talking about getting things for nothing, we were successful in our bid for the Lloyds Community Award and came top of the voting in our area. The £5,000 we received for this was put towards the upgrade in the toilet block and the disabled toilets now have been redesigned as wet rooms complete with showers, with the site making up the shortfall

of the cost of the job. These are also available for leaders to use which at last gives leaders a separate toilet and shower facility at the site. New floor matting has also been installed in the main showers.

Other work completed on site includes new screening around the skip, the laundry has been rewired and had new windows, the main well-structure on site (covering the taps) has been rebuilt and the second half of the roof of the Stone Tent has been renewed. The CCTV system has been upgraded allowing us to monitor the site even when the site is closed during the week, and we have also undertaken extensive general maintenance all around the site.



The Rhod Squad Camp at Silver Cross

Finally, and although I say this each year I really mean it, I would like to thank the extremely dedicated service team who keep this site running. Silver Cross would not exist as it is without the huge commitment and enthusiasm from this great group of people. They are here most weekends, and indeed some even live in (in tents and a campervan!) for the whole summer, making sure that even the extra jobs are now being completed ahead of schedule. Thank you ☺

Follow us on Facebook:
on Twitter:

Silver Cross Scout Centre
@SilverCrossCamp

Andy Shurey
Warden

Glamorgan West Scout Area
Census of Membership year ended 31 January 2013 (2012 figures in brackets)

Youth Membership	Male	Female	Total
Beaver Scouts	327 (280)	59 (50)	386 (330)
Cub Scouts	434 (452)	62 (75)	496 (527)
Scouts	296 (329)	68 (63)	364 (392)
Explorer Scouts	86 (80)	33 (23)	119 (103)
Network Members	0 (0)	0 (0)	0* (0)*
Total Youth Membership	1143 (1141)	222 (211)	1365 (1352)

Leadership			
Section Leaders	101 (98)	99 (105)	200 (203)
Sectional Assistants and Skills Instructors	14 (18)	16 (14)	30 (32)
Group Scout Leaders	17 (14)	5 (3)	22 (17)
Area Skills Instructors	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Area Advisers	1 (1)	0 (0)	1 (1)
Area Scouters	2 (2)	0 (0)	2 (2)
Area Commissioners (includes DCs)	1 (1)	3 (3)	4 (4)
Total Leadership	136 (134)	123 (125)	259 (259)

Organisational Support			
Area Administrators	2 (2)	6 (5)	8 (7)
Area Office Bearers	3 (3)	0 (0)	3 (3)
Active Support	17 (17)	14 (16)	31 (33)
Individual Members and Associate Members	10 (11)	7 (5)	17 (16)
Total Organisational Support	32 (33)	27 (26)	59 (59)

Total Membership for 2013	1311	372	1682
	(1308)	(362)	(1670)

%age increase over 2012	0.23%	2.76%	0.72%
--------------------------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

Area Units	
Beaver Scout Colonies	30 (29)
Cub Scout Packs	32 (33)
Scout Troops	29 (27)
Explorer Scout Units	10 (9)
Local Scout Networks	1 (1)
Active Support Units	4 (4)
Groups	34 (34)

Young Leaders	5 (19)	2 (5)	7 (24)
Network members recorded elsewhere	2 (9)	0 (2)	2 (11)